

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A graphite material for use in forming a negative electrode of a lithium ion secondary cell which material is non-graphitizable and capable of occluding or releasing lithium ions, wherein said graphite material has adsorbed, or is coated with, a layer of surface active material that ~~(1) has not been graphitized by heat treatment and (2)~~ consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of starch derivatives having a basic repeating unit structure of  $C_6H_{10}O_5$ ; viscous polysaccharides having a basic repeating unit structure of  $C_6H_{10}O_5$ ; water-soluble cellulose derivatives having a basic repeating unit structure  $C_6H_{10}O_5$ , and water-soluble synthetic resins, wherein the amount of said surface active material is present in a range of 0.01 to 10% by weight based upon the weight of graphite material.

Claim 2. (Previously Amended) The graphite material for the negative electrode as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said graphite material further contains at least one alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element.

Claim 3. (Previously Amended) The graphite material for the negative electrode as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the content of said alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element is in the range of 50 to 30,000 ppm on the basis of said graphite material.

Claims 4. - 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said graphite material comprises at least one of the following:

natural graphite, artificial graphite, kish graphite, mesophase carbon micro-beads, mesophase carbon micro-fiber, and resin carbonized graphite.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 2, wherein said graphite material contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of lithium, calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium.

Claims 9. - 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said graphite material is coated with water-soluble cellulose derivatives selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, and hydroxypropyl cellulose.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble synthetic resins are selected from the group consisting of water-soluble acrylic resin, water-soluble epoxy resin, water-soluble polyester resin, and water-soluble polyamide resin.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said graphite material absorbs or is coated with an aqueous solution containing either ion-exchanged water, or hot-spring water, or underground water, or well water or city water, any one of which contains lithium, calcium, magnesium, sodium or potassium.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A graphite material for use in forming a negative electrode of a lithium ion secondary cell which is capable of occluding or releasing lithium ions, wherein said graphite material is non-graphitizable and has adsorbed or is coated with a layer of surface active material that ~~(1) has not been graphitized by heat treatment and~~ (2) consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetic starch, phosphoric starch, carboxymethyl starch and hydroxyalkyl starch wherein the amount of said surface active material is present in a range of 0.01 to 10.0 wt. % based upon the weight of graphite material.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A graphite material for use in forming a negative electrode of a lithium ion secondary cell which is capable of occluding or releasing lithium ions, wherein said graphite material has adsorbed or is coated with a layer of surface active material that (1) has not been graphitized by heat treatment and (2) consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of pullulan and dextrine, wherein the amount of said surface active material is present in a range of 0.01 to 10 wt. % based upon the weight of graphite material.